

Amazing NATO Spy Scandals

The deep penetration by the Communists of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) continues to scandalize the Western world. As the incredible facts have unfolded, Italian, German, French, Turkish and Belgian officials have all been implicated in massive spying for the Soviets, while sources close to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) say that American officials may also be involved.

Last week the West was again shocked by an amazing tale of the almost casual way in which NATO employees had actually managed to steal a strategic Sidewinder missile from an Allied base in Western Germany.

Detailing the operation that could have been copied from a Maxwell Smart script, West German federal prosecutor Ludwig Martin revealed that three men last year had parked a wheelbarrow outside a NATO air base at Neuburg on the Danube River in Bavaria. While a "Mister X" waited outside, the two others—identified as Wolf Diethard Knope, a 33-year-old flight sergeant and West German Air Force pilot, and Joseph Linowski, a mechanic who was born in Poland—climbed a fence and hauled the nine-foot, six-inch air-to-air missile out through a hole cut in the barbed wire.

When they discovered that the missile would not fit into their waiting car, they smashed the rear window and covered the exposed nose with a carpet. After reaching their destination, they dismantled the rocket, boxed it in a special suitcase and sent it by air freight to Moscow.

While some U.S. officials have been trying to play down the importance of the theft, others point out that the Sidewinder is one of the principal air-to-air weapons for both the U.S. Navy and the Air Force and has been supplied to the air forces of European allies and to Japan and Nationalist China as well. Moreover, the stolen missile was in perfect condition and the Soviets could unquestionably learn much from having it in their possession.

The Sidewinder robbery, furthermore, was not the only successful venture of these three men. In April 1967, Martin told the press, the same trio stole an "LM-3 navigation device" from the same base, once again trundling it off in a wheelbarrow. The device reached Moscow as "tourist luggage." Early in the year, Martin continued, they also carried off "a newly developed navigation device" from the display of a West German concern at the Hanover fair. That, too, was delivered to Moscow.

The prosecutor's report was set against the back-

ground of such recent episodes as the escape of six suspected agents to East Germany, three apparent suicides, including that of an admiral, and the arrest of four suspected agents, including those accused of stealing the Sidewinder. And the really disturbing note is that many in a position to know believe that only the surface has been scratched.

Our Man at NATO

As NATO continues to deteriorate drastically, conservatives in Washington think that LBJ ought to quickly fire Harlan Cleveland as U.S. ambassador to the anti-Communist organization. Cleveland represents the type of thinking that has vastly contributed to NATO's decline.



CLEVELAND

Under Cleveland's ambassadorship, the United States has approved a NATO report claiming that the Soviet program of "peaceful coexistence" has "changed the nature" of the East-West confrontation and that each ally "should play its full part in promoting an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe."

Judging from the explosive brief filed by Otto Otepka before the State Department and the Civil Service Commission, Cleveland also has little regard for tough security measures.

As assistant secretary of state for International Organizational Affairs in 1962, for example, he had recommended Irving Swerdlow for a position in the State Department despite the fact that—according to the Otepka brief—Swerdlow had "been dismissed as a security risk by the Mutual Security Agency, and that the top security officer in the agency had commented that 'Swerdlow's security file was one of the rottenest he had ever seen.'"

Cleveland not only persuaded the department to appoint Swerdlow anyway, but he then apparently began to ask if it would be possible for the government to re-employ Alger Hiss, despite Hiss' perjury conviction for denying a role in a Soviet espionage ring.

In late 1962, the brief relates, Cleveland personally selected eight members of an Advisory Committee on International Organizations and then demanded that normal security procedures be waived on each of them. Otepka objected, primarily because three proposed members were men who had served on the personal staff of Alger Hiss and were convinced that Hiss wasn't even a security risk.

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The advisory committee was established with Otepka's land's selections anyway, and came up with a draft report recommending the scrapping of security procedures for American employees at the United Nations. Otepka claimed this draft version, which he later helped to scuttle, coincided with views of both Hiss, and one Leonard B. Boudin, an extreme leftist who at that time was receiving legal fees from Fidel Castro.

For all these reasons—and more—LBJ, it is believed, should put Cleveland out to pasture.